

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method of managing a financial investment fund having a plurality of
2 securities, the managing being conducted by a plurality of participants, comprising:
3 receiving votes from the participants of the financial investment fund regarding
4 executing a market order for a security, wherein each participant is a partial-owner of the
5 financial investment fund;
6 totaling the votes to produce a total vote count;
7 comparing the total vote count with a market order threshold;
8 executing the market order, if the total vote count is greater than the market order
9 threshold; and
10 wherein executing the market order for the security involves altering the composition
11 of the financial investment fund with respect to the security.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the security comprises a candidate security
2 and receiving votes comprises receiving the votes for the candidate security, the method
3 further including receiving nominations for security to become the candidate security.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further including:
2 totaling the nominations for a nominated security to produce a total nominated vote
3 count;
4 comparing the total nominated vote count with a nomination threshold; and

1 converting the nominated security into the candidate security if the total nominated
2 vote count exceeds the nomination threshold.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein executing the market order comprises
2 purchasing the security.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein executing the market order comprises selling
2 the security.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the market order threshold comprises a
2 market order percent, the method further comprising receiving the market order percent from
3 the participants.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein receiving the market order percent comprises
2 setting the market order percent based on input received from the participants on a regular
3 basis.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein receiving the market order percent comprises:
2 receiving market order votes from the participants; and
3 averaging the market order votes to arrive at the market order percent.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving market order votes and averaging
2 the market order votes occurs on a regular basis.

1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein receiving the market order percent comprises
2 setting a minimum market order percent.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving additional funds from the
2 participants and investing the additional funds by receiving votes, totaling the votes,
3 comparing the total vote count, and executing the market order.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving votes comprises receiving votes for
2 a plurality of securities.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein executing the market order comprises
2 instructing a financial provider to execute the market order for the security.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising reviewing the market order to
2 ensure the market order complies with rules regarding management of the financial
3 investment fund.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein reviewing comprises having an advisor
2 oversee management of the financial investment fund.

1 16. A method of managing a financial investment fund having a plurality of
2 securities, the managing being conducted by a plurality of participants, comprising:

1 receiving nominations from the participants of the financial investment fund
2 recommending a market order for a security, wherein each participant is a partial-owner of
3 the financial investment fund;

4 receiving nomination votes from the participants regarding the market order for the
5 security;

6 totaling the nomination votes to produce a total nominated vote count;

7 comparing the total nominated vote count with a nomination threshold;

8 converting the security into a candidate security if the total nominated vote count
9 exceeds the nomination threshold;

10 receiving candidate votes from the participants for executing the market order for the
11 candidate security;

12 totaling the candidate votes to produce a total candidate vote count;

13 comparing the total candidate vote count with a market order threshold; and

14 executing the market order if the total candidate vote count is greater than the market
15 order threshold;

16 wherein executing the market order involves altering the composition of the financial
17 investment fund with respect to the candidate security.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein executing the market order comprises
2 purchasing the candidate security.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein executing the market order comprises selling
2 the security.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the market order threshold comprises a
2 market order percent, the method further comprising receiving the market order percent from
3 the participants.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein receiving the market order percent comprises
2 setting the market order percent based on input received from the participants.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein receiving the market order percent
2 comprises:

3 receiving market order votes from the participants; and
4 averaging the market order votes to arrive at the market order percent.

1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein receiving market order votes and averaging
2 the market order votes occurs on a regular basis.

1 23. The method of claim 19, further including requiring each participant to vote
2 for the market order percent before receiving the nomination votes or candidates votes from
3 each participant.

1 24. The method of claim 16, further comprising weighting at least one of the
2 nomination votes or candidate votes based on participant.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein weighting comprises weighting based on
2 each participant's ownership interest in the financial investment fund.

1 26. The method of claim 16, further including determining whether a nominated
2 security should replace a candidate security on the candidate list by comparing the total
3 nominated vote count of the nominated security with a second total nominated vote count
4 received by each security on the candidate list, and replacing the candidate security with the
5 nominated security if the total nominated vote count of the security on the nominated list
6 exceeds the nominated vote count previously received by that candidate security.

1 27. The method of claim 16, wherein executing the market order includes:
2 determining whether the security meets criteria on managing the fund;
3 determining whether sufficient cash exists to execute the market order; and
4 if multiple market orders are received for multiple securities, determining an order to
5 execute the market orders based on the candidate votes.

1 28. The method of claim 16, wherein receiving nominations includes requesting
2 that the participant provide information relevant to the nominated security.